IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant: **Buxton, et. al.** Case: **AVOT-002**

Serial No.: **09/781,937** Filed: **February 12, 2001**

Examiner: **Jason M. Borlinghaus** Group Art Unit: **3628**

Confirmation No.: 1774

Title: **NETWORK REVERSE AUCTION AND SPENDING ANALYSIS**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF BRAD BUXTON, JOHN STAPLETON, TRAJAN KING, CLAIRE BUTKUS, DAN ALGER, FRANK HOSEA, DAVE NASH, JOHN GARVIN, MATT EGEN, MARIA DOBSON AND GILBERT WILLOUGHBY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

We, Brad Buxton, John Stapleton, Trajan King, Claire Butkus, Dan Alger, Frank Hosea, Dave Nash, John Garvin, Matt Egen, Maria Dobson and Gilbert Willoughby declare as follows:

1. We are the inventors of the subject matter contained in the above-captioned patent application.

2. The claimed invention, which forms the subject matter of the above-captioned patent application, was conceived of and reduced to practice before April 4, 2000, as evidenced by Exhibit A, enclosed herewith.

3. Exhibit A is a copy of an invention disclosure form that was submitted to Applied Research Technologies, Inc., the original assignee of the presently claimed invention, before April 4, 2000 as part of an invention disclosure that forms the basis of the present application.

4. Exhibit A describes a method of updating a database of commodity information including multiple predefined commodity designations representing multiple

predefined commodities and an estimated market price stored in association with one or more of the commodity designations. The method includes providing an online reverse auction environment accessible via a computer network, receiving a request for proposals (RFP) from a customer at the online reverse auction environment, the RFP including a request for bids on at least a specified one of the commodities, soliciting multiple potential vendors to submit proposals responsive to the RFP in the online reverse auction environment, receiving one or more vendor proposals in the online reverse auction environment, at least one of the vendor proposals being responsive to the RFP and including a proposed price for the specified commodity, extracting the proposed price from each of the responsive vendor proposals, comparing the proposed price to the estimated market price of the specified commodity, and updating the database with the proposed price so that the estimated market price more accurately approximates an actual market price.

5. Exhibit A further describes a method of updating a database of commodity information including multiple predefined commodity designations representing multiple predefined commodities, an estimated market price stored in association with one or more of the commodity designations, and a non-price market term stored in association with one or more of the commodity designations. The method includes providing an online reverse auction environment accessible via a computer network, receiving a request for proposals (RFP) from a customer at the online reverse auction environment, the RFP including a request for bids and a desired non-price term for at least a specified one of the commodities, soliciting multiple potential vendors to submit proposals responsive to the RFP in the online reverse auction environment, receiving one or more vendor proposals in the online reverse auction environment, at least one of the vendor proposals being responsive to the RFP and including a proposed price for the specified commodity and a proposed non-price term, extracting the proposed price and the proposed non-price term from each of the responsive vendor proposals, comparing the proposed price and the proposed non-price term with the respective estimated market price and non-price market term of the database corresponding to the specified commodity, and updating the database with the proposed price so that the estimated market price more accurately approximates an actual market price.

6. Exhibit A further describes a system for facilitating the purchase of telecommunications services. The system includes a best of class database including an estimated market price for at least one telecommunications service, a customer traffic history database including traffic information describing a historical quantity of the telecommunications service used by a customer during a previous time period, an RFP preparation module accessible by the customer via the Internet for preparation of a request for proposals (RFP) describing an anticipated quantity of the telecommunications service, the RFP preparation module being adapted to extract the historical quantity from the customer traffic history database for use in determining the anticipated quantity of the telecommunications service, an online reverse auction environment, accessible by multiple potential vendors via the Internet, the potential vendors including one or more interested vendors, the online reverse auction environment adapted to display the RFP to the interested vendors and to receive bids on the RFP from the interested vendors, and a bid analysis module in communication with the online reverse auction environment and the best of class database for analyzing the received bids.

7. Exhibit A further describes a system for facilitating the purchase of telecommunications services. The system includes a best of class database including an estimated market price for at least one telecommunications service, a customer traffic history database including traffic information describing a historical quantity of the telecommunications service used by a customer during a previous time period, an RFP preparation module accessible by the customer via the Internet for preparation of a request for proposals (RFP) describing an anticipated quantity of the telecommunications service, the RFP preparation module being adapted to extract the historical quantity from the customer traffic history database for use in determining the anticipated quantity of the telecommunications service, an online reverse auction environment accessible by multiple potential vendors via the Internet, the potential vendors including one or more interested vendors, the online reverse auction environment adapted to present the RFP to the interested vendors and to receive bids on the RFP from the interested vendors; a bid analysis module in communication with the online reverse auction environment and the best of class database for analyzing the

received bids and generating a feedback in response to the received bids, and a database updating module for updating the best of class database in response to the received bids so that the estimated market price more accurately approximates an actual market price.

8. Exhibit A further describes a system for reducing the cost of telecommunications services. The system includes a best of class database including multiple generic classes of telecommunications service and an estimated market price for one or more of the generic classes of telecommunications service; a customer traffic history database including traffic information describing a historical quantity of at least some of the generic classes of telecommunications service used by a customer during a previous time period, a spending analysis software module for reading multiple telecommunications billing statements including traffic detail data, extracting the traffic detail data from the telecommunications billing statements, converting the traffic detail data to the generic classes of telecommunications service, and updating the historical quantity of the customer traffic history database with the converted traffic detail data, an RFP preparation module accessible by the customer via the Internet for preparation of a request for proposals (RFP) describing an anticipated quantity of a specified one of the generic classes of telecommunications service, the RFP preparation module being adapted to extract the historical quantity from the customer traffic history database for use in determining the anticipated quantity of the specified generic class of telecommunications service, an online reverse auction environment accessible by multiple potential vendors via the Internet, the potential vendors including one or more interested vendors, the online reverse auction environment adapted to present the RFP to the interested vendors and to receive bids on the RFP from the interested vendors, a bid analysis module in communication with the online reverse auction environment and the best of class database for analyzing the received bids and generating a feedback in response to the received bids, and a database updating module for updating the best of class database with at least one of the received bids so that the estimated market price more accurately approximates an actual market price.

9. Exhibit A further describes a computer-implemented method of analyzing telecommunications traffic. The computer-implemented method includes extracting

traffic detail data from multiple billing statements, the billing statements being received from various telecommunications carriers, the traffic detail data of each billing statement describing at least one telecommunications traffic event, converting the traffic detail data to a generic traffic format, the generic traffic format defining multiple generic classes of service, storing the converted traffic detail data in a customer traffic history database; and summarizing the converted traffic detail data.

10. Exhibit A further describes a computer-implemented telecommunications spending analysis system for analyzing multiple telecommunications billing statements received by a customer from various telecommunications carriers, each telecommunications billing statement including traffic detail data for multiple telecommunications traffic events. The computer-implemented telecommunications includes a set of computer-readable translation rules that relate the traffic detail data to multiple predefined generic classes of service, a traffic genericizing module for converting the traffic detail data to a generic traffic detail format in accordance with the translation rules, a customer traffic history database for storing the converted traffic detail data, and a traffic analysis software module in communication with the customer traffic history database for analyzing the converted traffic detail data to thereby allow convenient summarizing, storage, and reporting of the traffic detail data.

11. Exhibit A is offered as supporting evidence that the method and system of the presently claimed invention – as recited, for example, in independent claims 1, 9, 16, 28, 39, 49 and 60 – was conceived of and reduced to practice before the alleged April 4, 2000 priority date of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0147674 A1 ("Gilman"), and before the alleged September 7, 2000 priority date of United States Patent No. 6,574,465 B2 ("Marsh et al.).

We further declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

9.26-05
Date

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CLAIRE BUTKUS

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DAN ALGER

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FRANK HOSEA

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MARIA DOBSON

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GILBERT WILLOUGHBY

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5. Exhibit A further describes a method of updating a database of commodity information including multiple predefined commodity designations representing multiple predefined commodities, an estimated market price stored in association with one or more of the commodity designations, and a non-price market term stored in association with one or more of the commodity designations. The method includes providing an online reverse auction environment accessible via a computer network, receiving a request for proposals (RFP) from a customer at the online reverse auction environment, the RFP including a request for bids and a desired non-price term for at least a specified one of the commodities, soliciting multiple potential vendors to submit proposals responsive to the RFP in the online reverse auction environment, receiving one or more vendor proposals in the online reverse auction environment, at least one of the vendor proposals being responsive to the RFP and including a proposed price for the specified commodity and a proposed non-price term, extracting the proposed price and the proposed non-price term from each of the responsive vendor proposals, comparing the proposed price and the proposed non-price term with the respective estimated market price and non-price market term of the database corresponding to the specified commodity, and updating the database with the proposed price so that the estimated market price more accurately approximates an actual market price.

6. Exhibit A further describes a system for facilitating the purchase of telecommunications services. The system includes a best of class database including an estimated market price for at least one telecommunications service, a customer traffic history database including traffic information describing a historical quantity of the telecommunications service used by a customer during a previous time period, an RFP preparation module accessible by the customer via the Internet for preparation of a request for proposals (RFP) describing an anticipated quantity of the telecommunications service, the RFP preparation module being adapted to extract the historical quantity from the customer traffic history database for use in determining the anticipated quantity of the telecommunications service, an online reverse auction environment, accessible by multiple potential vendors via the Internet, the potential vendors including one or more interested vendors, the online reverse auction environment adapted to display the RFP to the interested vendors and to receive bids on the RFP from the interested vendors, and a bid analysis module in communication with the online reverse auction environment and the best of class database for analyzing the received bids.

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8. Exhibit A further describes a system for reducing the cost of telecommunications services. The system includes a best of class database including multiple generic classes of telecommunications service and an estimated market price for one or more of the generic classes of telecommunications service; a customer traffic history database including traffic information describing a historical quantity of at least some of the generic classes of telecommunications service used by a customer during a previous time period, a spending analysis software module for reading multiple telecommunications billing statements including traffic detail data, extracting the traffic detail data from the telecommunications billing statements, converting the traffic detail data to the generic classes of telecommunications service, and updating the historical quantity of the customer traffic history database with the converted traffic detail data, an RFP preparation module accessible by the customer via the Internet for preparation of a request for proposals (RFP) describing an anticipated quantity of a specified one of the generic classes of telecommunications service, the RFP preparation module being adapted to extract the historical quantity from the customer traffic history database for use in determining the anticipated quantity of the specified generic class of telecommunications service, an online reverse auction environment accessible by multiple potential vendors via the Internet, the potential vendors including one or more interested vendors, the online reverse auction environment adapted to present the RFP to the interested vendors and to receive bids on the RFP from the interested vendors, a bid analysis module in communication with the online reverse auction environment and the best of class database for analyzing the received bids and generating a feedback in response to the received bids, and a database updating module for updating the best of class database with at least one of the received bids so that the estimated market price more accurately approximates an actual market price.

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Date	BRAD BUXTON
Date	JOHN STAPLETON
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Date	DAN ALGER
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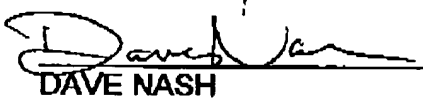
Oct 7, 2005 Date	 DAVE NASH
Date	JOHN GARVIN
Date	MATT EGEN
Date	MARIA DOBSON
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